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1873. The following are typical plants of this region. Of M. Blanche's collection; *Silene gonocalyx*, *Habrosia spinulifera*; *Althæa rufescens*; *Haplophyllum fruticosum*; *Astragalus tribuloides*; *Dipterocoma pusilla*; *Stipa Ehrenbergii*. Of those reported by Prof. Paine there are several described as new species; *Silene brevipes*; *Trigonella minima*; *Trifolium velivolum*; *Cephalaria tenella*; *Cerinthopsis foliosa*; *Phelipæa incana*; *Salvia Peratica*; *Plantago Cretica*,  $\beta$ . *tomentella*; *Plantago Phacopis*; *Gagea monticola*; *Allium lachnophyllum*; *Carex eremitica*; *Bromus argyphæus*. Further study and extensive collections alone can determine the peculiarities of the desert flora.

In its general characteristics, climatic and botanical, strong resemblances may be traced between Syria and California. The same wet winters and dry summers, with breezes from a western sea, blowing over mountains, mostly bare of forests, and plains fertile only through irrigation; the same hot sunshine, and the proximity of lofty mountains to semi-tropical valleys, produce analogies in vegetable life, which the writer hopes to trace in a subsequent paper. Without doubt, as the range of our knowledge in Geology and Botany increases, the knowledge of the lines of descent and analogy will extend, not merely to species and varieties, but to the mode of the formation of the continents, and the reasons for the distribution of plants, which are deprived of volition in their establishment and diffusion, as well as for the migrations of animals, which superadd to organic life, some degree of self-determined will.

#### § 156. International Botanical and Horticultural Congress.—

The Botanical Society and the Central Horticultural Society of France, propose to hold, during the Paris Exposition of 1878, a Botanical and Horticultural Congress, at Paris, from August 16th to the 22d, inclusive. Botanists of all countries are invited, and those who propose to be present at the Congress, are requested to announce their intention to M. A. Lavalley, President of the "Commission of Organization," Paris. In the list of members of the Commission are the well-known names of Baillon, Planchon, Duchatre, Cosson, and other French botanists, with those of equally prominent horticulturists.

The Commission desire that the widest possible publicity be given to the proposed plan.

G. T.

§ 157. **Botanical Papers.**—Doct. A. Engler, of the Botanic Garden of Munich, Bavaria, is one the Editors of Dr. Just's "Annual Review." He complains that, by the usual channels, contributions and publications are sometimes very long in reaching him, and requests that the authors of papers and botanical notes forward copies of their publications directly to him. His special departments are: the geographical distribution of plants, and the morphology and the systematic botany of Phanerogamous plants.

G. T.

§ 158. **Suffolk County Notes.**—I was interested in a note, Upon the appearance and disappearance of plants, by Mr. Edwards, in a recent No. of the BULLETIN. I have had similar experience, though mine has not been so pleasant. I have to record more the disap-

pearance than the appearance of those I have sought. I have looked in vain for many plants which would be likely to be found here, but have failed to find them, though I have been rewarded by discovering species new to me and often of more interest than those I sought.

While looking for plants at River Head I found, very unexpectedly, *Botrychium simplex*, Hitch. I find it every year in the same place, though never anywhere else. I think it is not so rare as is generally thought; being small and green, it is easily overlooked. Mr. Young and myself found *Rhyncospora nitens*, Gray, very plenty at Long Pond, near here, in 1872. We have never been able to find it since. We found at the same place, the same year, *Polygonum Carey*, Olney, very plenty. The next year we found a few specimens. Since then we have not observed a sign of a plant. I found once a single specimen of *Aster Novae Angliae*, L., at Long Pond. I gathered the cluster of flowers, but was particular to leave the root. I have never been able to find it again. Long Pond is the only locality where I can find *Galactia mollis*, Mx. I found *Utricularia gibba*, L., there for a year or two, but don't find it now. In 1872 I found two or three plants of *U. resupinata*, Greene, growing on a floating mass of Nymphaea roots and mud. The same year I found it at Deep Pond, about a mile from Long Pond. The little purple flowers were so thick on a square rod of ground that they showed plainly at some distance. I have searched eagerly for it in that spot every year since, but in vain. I found, at Deep Pond, the same year, *Oldenlandia glomerata*, Mx.; that, too, has disappeared. *Potamogeton Robbinsii*, Oakes, grows in Deep Pond. I have only examined fragments which I have picked up along the shore. There is no boat in the pond, and it is very deep, in some places 40 feet. I used to find *Reseda luteola*, L., and *Verbena officinalis*, L., in the streets at Mt. Sinai, but they have both been destroyed. *Mentha aquatica*, L., var. *crispa*, Benth., has too strong a hold there to be easily destroyed. I have found one plant, each of *Asclepias variegata*, L., and *Asclepias phytolaccoides*, Pursh, here, but they have both been destroyed. Mr. Young found the latter at Northville. A large patch of *A. purpurascens*, L., grows near Deep Pond. I never saw it flower but once, and then it did not mature any fruit. *Chenopodium glaucun*, L., is a weed in a garden near the Sound. *Celtis occidentalis*, L., is very plenty at Stony Brook, on the farm of Mr. Thos H. Hadaway. I find *Betula papyracea*, Ait., about here. It flowers before the leaves expand, while *B. alba*, L., var. *populifolia*, Spach, does not flower till the leaves are half grown. I have never been able to find more than one specimen of the typical form of *Juniperus communis*, L. The var. *depressa*, Torr., is very common. I occasionally find *Matricaria inodora*, L., when I am mowing. As it is cut before the seed ripen it is not likely to increase very fast. I went to Babylon last spring to collect *Linnaea borealis*, Gronov. I followed closely the directions where to find it, given in the BULLETIN by Mr. Merriam. I searched long and diligently, but failed. I feel quite sure it is entirely destroyed, for a fire had passed over the spot a year or two previous to my search, and destroyed everything above ground. As the roots do not grow very